

TELEGRAPHIC.

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J. H. MACDONALD, DAVIDSON & PATERSON
Solicitors for the Company.

YUKON CHARGES

(Continued from Second Page.)

Major Steele a puff, I may take the liberty of doing so. From a very considerable knowledge of matters and things in the Northwest Territories, I have no hesitation in saying that Major Steele is the best officer in the mounted police force, and he was the man above all others who was the proper man to be placed in command of the military and police force in the Yukon. There has been no breath of slander, and no allegation of any kind against the military administration of the Yukon, since Major Steele went there. Therefore, I may take it for granted that it is disposed of. There were very grave complaints against the late gold commissioner; but he has been displaced by another man, for whom there is another chorus of praise, joined in by everybody, and I have no doubt justly. The crown prosecutor or legal adviser of the government has, I believe, disappeared from the scene, and has been replaced by another gentleman of good repute.

I have not held, nor is it necessary for the purpose of my argument to hold, that there was not cause for grave dissatisfaction on the part of the miners of the Yukon with the conduct of affairs there in 1897 '98; but I say that the fact that that condition of affairs has been entirely changed, and that there is now absolutely no complaint from the Yukon country along those lines, is a sufficient warrant to me of the good faith of the government in its administration of that country.

This radical change having been made is sufficient cause for me to vote confidence in the government on this motion, which I understand to be a motion of want of confidence. While in my mind the question of the charges of misconduct on the part of the officials has very largely been disposed of, so far as the responsibility of the government is concerned by the action which has been taken, I am not by any means taking the position that there was no cause for the changes which the government has seen fit to make. I take for granted that the fact that such radical changes were made is proof that there was sufficient cause for them, and that cause was very largely the complaints which came down from the Yukon.

I do not wish to be considered as altogether agreeing with all parts of the government's policy in the Yukon. As was said by the minister of interior in his speech on this subject, the question of administration should be separated from the question of policy. I am dealing with the question of administration, and not the question of policy in regard to reserved claims or royalty as to which I have the misfortune to differ, I am afraid, from the majority on either side of the house; I do not believe in the one or the other.

But on the question of the amendment before the house asking for a judicial inquiry, I say that the government having made the changes which they did make, and having provided for an investigation into the charges which had been alleged against the old officials; however meritorious the proposition of a judicial inquiry may be, the difference between the inquiry suggested by the amendment and the enquiry now being held by the government, is not sufficient to my mind to warrant me in voting want of confidence in the government. I will therefore vote for the amendment to the amendment.

SESSION NOTES.

OTTAWA, April 21, '99.
The actual business of the session was commenced on Wednesday by the answering of a long list of questions which had piled up on the order paper during the debate on the other public business is taken up; as it is a recognized parliamentary fiction that the position of the government is not assured until the acceptance by the house of the reply to the speech from the throne. The system of answers to questions is to allow information to be asked by members, answered by the government and recorded in Hansard without the formality and delay of moving for a return. It is chiefly availed of by members of the opposition and is a valuable privilege; but is sometimes abused by questions being asked on subjects which do not properly belong to the business of the house, or in an improper manner. And sometimes the questions involve the laying of copies of papers before the house, in which case a formal return must be moved for. The following are some of the items of information given:

Total expenditure on plebiscite to April 17th, \$183,584.58. Some accounts still outstanding.

Cost of international commission to date \$33,660.

Deadman's island (Vancouver) lease to saw mill company was granted on representations to the minister of militia that \$260,000 would be expended in buildings, plant, etc., that 1000 men would be employed. But there was no provision in the lease requiring such expenditure.

Thirty thousand rifles with bayonet and 25 rounds of ammunition were sold by the government at 75c each. Tenders were called for.

The revenue collected on tobacco last year \$3,566,416 of which \$971,285 was due to the recent increase in duty.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: "The government had reason to believe that the settlement known as the 'Laurier-Greenway settlement' has been accepted by the majority of the minority (in Manitoba) though not unanimously." It could be re-opened by any one who chose to take the responsibility of doing so.

Thos. Fawcett, has been succeeded as gold commissioner of the Yukon by E. C. Senkler.

W. J. Willison, formerly timber inspector in the Yukon, is now a sub-inspector.

W. D. P. Clement is legal adviser to the administration of the Yukon. Twenty-one clerks are employed in connection with the Yukon gold commissioner's office.

Major Walsh is not connected officially or otherwise with the administration of Yukon affairs.

An order-in-council prohibits the staking or recording of mining claims in the Yukon by officials in their own or any other name, or securing any interest in any claim, or acting as agent for anyone in regard to any claim.

Hon. Mr. Fisher, (as to the respective positions of himself and other members of the government on prohibition) "The government of which I am a member has fulfilled to the letter the pledge made and the utterance quoted by the hon. gentleman."

Two hundred and thirty-four thousand eight hundred and thirty dollars was paid in bounties for the manufacture of iron and steel during the year ending June 30th, '98.

Of 250 tons of supplies for Yukon troops shipped in the spring of '98 through the Barton and Alaskan Transportation Co. half has been delivered at Fort Selkirk, and the remainder is stored at Circle City in Alaska. The company is in liquidation. The freight charge from Seattle to Fort Selkirk is mentioned as \$154,000.

Canada has 12,000 feet of floor space amongst Imperial exhibits and 27,100 in a special colonial building. The space in the imperial building will cost \$1 a square foot. In the colonial building from \$2 to \$2.50 per square foot.

F. C. Wade was land registrar, clerk of court, crown prosecutor and legal adviser of council of the Yukon. He also acted as adviser of the gold commissioner. Wade was told that there was nothing in the mining regulations to prevent him from staking a claim in his own name. He was not prevented from practicing law on his own account. He was paid \$3,131 salary, expenses and assistance. He is now crown prosecutor.

Militia force in Yukon 202. Cost of transport there \$19,838. Cost of supplies \$83,672. Transport of supplies \$158,686.

The government will not introduce an anti-Chinese bill at this session.

Ninety-two special constables are employed in connection with the Northwest mounted police. They have been given a month's notice. Extra pay is given for extra or special duty.

Since Sept. 1st, '97, the interior department has issued five Yukon liquor permits, total 120 gallons. 23 permits were issued by the Northwest government on its own responsibility.

The government pays the salary and travelling expenses of one agent of the repatriation society of Quebec, pays \$25 a month towards its paper "Le Colonisateur," and transmits the society's advertising matter through the mails. The lake St. John railway is aided in its colonization work. Four agents are directly employed by the government in the work. French pamphlets have been printed and distributed in large quantities. In 1898 338 families of French-Canadians were repatriated through the efforts of the department.

Medals for the Fenian raids of 1866 and 1870 and for the Red River expedition of 1870 may be expected from England this summer.

McInnis, Vancouver, introduced a bill to provide a speedy appeal from the decision of a mining recorder, mining inspector or gold commissioner of the Yukon.

An amendment to the "winding up act," was introduced by Mr. Fortin.

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210 acres, 5 miles from town, with buildings, 2100
140 acres, 6 miles from town, with buildings, 640
160 acres, 5 miles from town, with buildings, 600
320 acres, 8 miles from town, with buildings, 2400
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